Unmanned spacecraft mission around moon

442. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI LALIT SURI:
SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR.

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to send an unmanned spacecraft to survey the moon by 2007;

(b) whether requisite preparations for the proposed venture have been taken on hand and what is the present stage of such preparations;

(c) whether any foreign collaboration is contemplated for the purpose and the details thereof; and

(d) what are the financial implications of the proposal and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, sir. It is planned to launch an unmanned spacecraft - Chandrayaan-1 to orbit around the Moon in the year 2007-2008, with the objective of carrying out high resolution imaging of lunar terrain and to carry out observations of the distribution of various chemicals and mineralogical constituents over its surface.

(b) Yes, Sir. The preparations are progressing as per approved project. The Base Line Design has been completed and Deep Space Network Station location has been identified.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The estimated cost of the Chandrayaan-1 mission is Rs. 386 crores including the setting up a Deep Space Network Station required for Tracking, telecommand and data communication.

Areial surveys conducted by Space Department

443. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any specific aerial surveys have been conducted by the Space Department or any other agency, recently in the various parts of the Maharashtra;